



# HIGH PLAINS JOURNAL<sup>TM</sup>

Collaboration brings  
new water management tool to  
**OGALLALA AQUIFER IRRIGATORS**

*Now farmers can make irrigation decisions  
based on real-time well use data*

Farmers have more data at their fingertips today than ever before in the history of agriculture.

From precision planting and application tools to in-cab displays of yields in real time during harvest, farmers of the 21st century can better manage their crop inputs from seed to the bin. That is, except for real-time measurements of irrigation.

Sure, moisture probes and sensors can give a farmer a better insight into his field conditions than the weather reports of 30 to 40 years ago. And metering can give an end-of-season report card when it comes to overall water usage. But when it comes down to knowing minute-by-minute how much water is being pumped out of their groundwater resource, farmers have been left with a best guess.

That is, until the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Water Data Program was formed in 2019. This collaboration brings public, private and government entities together in a common goal—provide real-time measurements of ground water use on the Ogallala Aquifer so that farmers can better manage this precious resource instead of relying on outdated models based on end-of-year data.

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*~ Story by Jennifer M. Latzke ~  
Photo by Kylens Scott. Cover design by Diana Derstein.*

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# It's Your Business

T&L Irrigation Company's Precision Mobile Drip Irrigation technology combines the benefits of T-L's hydrostatically powered center pivot irrigation systems with the efficiency of drip irrigation for total water efficiency that approaches 95%. "Universally available for all new or used pivot or linear irrigation systems, PMDI features in-line driplines spaced at 60-inch intervals that are pulled through the field by a center pivot or lateral move irrigation system," said Dave Thom, company president, noting that lines can also be spaced at 30- or 40-inch intervals. "As the hoses are pulled behind the system, emitters, spaced every six inches, deliver an even water pattern across the full length of the pivot or linear system." The technology, from the Hastings, Nebraska-based company, provides a water-saving solution for customers who are faced with water restrictions or deficit irrigation. Because the drip lines do not put the water out in the air, the evaporation and wind drift associated with traditional sprinklers is virtually eliminated, putting more water directly onto the soil surface. PMDI was first introduced and patented by T-L Irrigation some years ago and has been improved over the years to address the growing interest in water conservation related to drought and dropping water tables. For more information, see a dealer or visit [www.tlirr.com](http://www.tlirr.com).



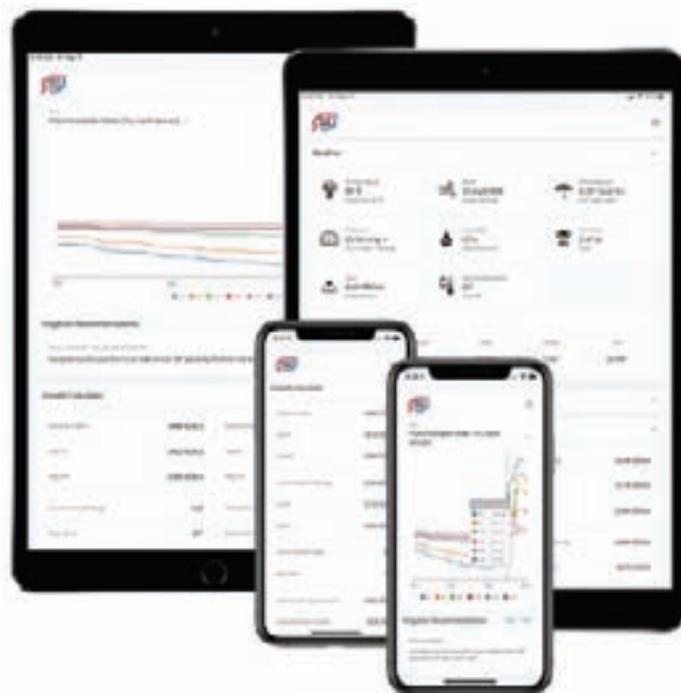
## Company's field intelligence platform receives upgrade

The ServiTech Bridge Field Intelligence platform has been updated to include key new features for growers and ag retailers. Bridge uses both in-field sensors and analytics to give growers vital information on dryland and irrigated acres, and other key analytics right in the palm of their hands—from in the field or across the globe.

ServiTech Bridge allows for its unmatched offerings to be customizable and serves as a single point for critical data.

Based on an annual subscription platform, Bridge offers flexibility and customization with the option to take advantage of specialized packages that combine crop consulting, fertility management and soil moisture recommendations. These features allow growers to leverage the core of ServiTech's business including agronomy, laboratory and technology services. Every subscription includes satellite imagery, interpolated local weather conditions and crop growth modeling with GDU calculator.

"ServiTech is extremely proud of Bridge and its achievements bringing together technology and analytics in ways our industry had not seen



prior to now," said Greg Ruehle, president and CEO of ServiTech, Dodge City, Kansas. "With recent updates, growers will have more flexibility and customizable features to create exactly what they need to be successful. ServiTech is the only company bringing together lab services, agronomy expertise and technology to work together for maximizing results."

ServiTech Bridge provides vital information to maximize

yield and allows growers to customize the platform based the needs of an operation, making it highly scalable and intuitive for one or multiple fields. Optional features that leverage in-field sensors include soil moisture management, wireless rain gauge, full-featured weather station and a pivot status monitor.

For additional information, see a representative or visit <https://servitech.com/field-intelligence>.

## Accurate moisture meter optimizes harvest

For farmers, quickly measuring samples of wheat, barley, soybeans, rice or other products to determine which are ready to harvest reduces uncertainty and saves time. It also reduces risk of buyer rejection due to improper moisture content, and maximizes the sales price by enabling the optimum amount of moisture to be counted toward product weight or volume.

Measuring moisture content is also essential to prepare and store grains to deter spoilage. Although monitoring rainfall, irrigation, and temperature is necessary, it is not sufficient to determine the best time to harvest in order to achieve ideal water content. Inevitably, there is some variation in water content within crops that farmers cannot estimate with any certainty.

"Without periodic testing within various fields or plots, farmers will miss out on optimizing both quality and yield—which produces the payday that they must survive on," says John Bogart, managing director of Kett US, manufacturer of a full range of moisture and organic composition analyzers.

Fortunately, accurate, portable, and easy to use moisture meters are now available that help farmers harvest at exactly the right time.

Today, transportable single grain moisture testers can quickly measure the moisture within each grain of rice, barley and wheat. This can be achieved in minutes without sample preparation with results displayed on an LCD screen.

With advanced models like those from Kett, farmers select the calibration, pour a sample in to a hopper and press the "measure" button. Models are factory-calibrated for wheat, brown, polished and paddy rice, as well as naked and standard barley. The devices measure from 10 to 1,000 kernels in each batch, at 150 kernels per minute.

When farmers need to test a wider range of agricultural products, some advanced portable moisture meters use capacitance technology to provide instant measurement with 150 calibrations for common grain and seeds. If greater accuracy is required, Near-Infrared light analyzers are a highly accurate, non-contact, secondary measurement method that can deliver immediate laboratory quality moisture readings. Portable NIR meters do not require contact or sample preparation. The user simply points the instrument at the product and the moisture content is displayed, with results accurate to 0.01% in a 0-100% measurement range.

For more information, call 800-438-5388 or visit [www.kett.com](http://www.kett.com).